

REMARKS

In view of the Advisory Action of April 13, 2010, RCE has been filed, wherein claim 30 is incorporated into claim 25. Claim 25 rejected in the final Action of November 17, 2009 is patentable over JP 11-299901 in view of Edwin.

JP '901 discloses a method of forming a polymer over an outer surface of a stent by using a mandrel. However, the method of JP '901 does not disclose the method of claim 15. In particular, JP '901 does not coat a polymer inside the inner surface of the stent.

In the method of JP '901, it is disclosed that "after drying, while the polymer is held on the mandrel for the cover strip, small pores are formed at the equal intervals by laser." Namely, before the polymer is applied onto the stent, small pores are formed in the polymer. In the present invention, after the stent is covered with the polymer, the small pores or holes are formed. Therefore, the small pores can be formed in the polymer only without forming the pores extending to the stent matrix.

Further in the method of JP '901, it is very difficult to cover the film or polymer onto the stent such that the small pores existing on the entire film do not overlap the stent. It is practically difficult to avoid the blood clot or allergy due to exposure of metal in the blood vessel.

Therefore, the method of manufacturing the stent of the invention is different from that disclosed in JP '901.

Edwin discloses the steps comprising a step of placing a first covering member on a stent, a step of placing a second covering member inside the stent, a step of supplying pressure to force the first covering member and the second covering member into intimate contact through openings in the stent and in registration with the pattern, and a step of heating the first and second covering members

to form a pattern of bonds between the covering members, said pattern of bonds corresponding to the pattern of elevated regions.

Also, in Edwin, in order to bond the inner surface of the covering member, i.e. ePTFE, and the outer surface of the covering member, i.e. ePTFE, an adhesive agent is used. Thus, the ePTFE films are liable to be hardened at portions where the adhesive agent is hardened, so that the expanding pattern designed for the stent body is hurt. Further, the adhesive component may hurt the living body.

On the other hand, in the present invention, an adhesive agent is not used, and the polymer films can be equally covered over the entire stent.

Further, ePTFE film used in Edwin is a porous material, so that blood may contact the metal stent body through the pores. Thus, blood protein and blood platelets are activated to generate blood clots. Further, it may cause metal allergy, stimulation of cells by metal, and corrosion of metal stent.

In the present invention, small pores or holes are formed in the middle of the film while eliminating the contact of blood with the stent body. Thus, the trouble as stated above is eliminated.

In the present invention, the fine pores are formed after the polymer layers are formed over the stent matrix.

The cited references disclose the stent covered with polymer films with pores. However, the present invention is direct to the method including the specific step of forming the fine pores after the polymer layers are formed over the stent matrix. The method of the invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

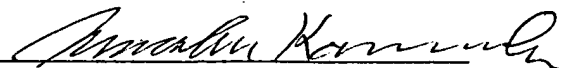
Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Three month extension of time is requested herewith. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$1,920.00 is attached for the three month extension of time (\$1,110.00) and RCE (\$810.00).

Serial No. 10/525,016

Respectfully Submitted,

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